

LANGUAGE FIRST! 9-THEME COMPLETE STARTER KIT

LEAPFROG SCHOOLHOUSE

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ISBN - 1593193505

Edition - 2ND EDITION

Grade Level	P1 - Kindergarten P2 - 1st Grade P3 - 2nd Grade P4 - 3rd Grade Fourth Grade Fifth Grade
Readability Level	K-3
Course / Content	Teaching Reading to ESL
List Price:	1222
Wholesale Price	1222

The features of each book or program were developed by the publisher and do not reflect the opinion of the Kentucky State Review Team Kentucky State Textbook Commission or the Kentucky Department of Education.

Content	<p>The Language First program consists of:</p> <p>1) Thirty-six theme-based "talking" student books. The thirty-six books:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">" Are organized into four levels of English language proficiency: 1) Beginner, 2) Early Intermediate, 3) Intermediate, and 4) Advanced." Are organized into nine themes (one book at each of the four proficiency levels per theme) that relate to children's day-to-day life: 1) About Me, 2) Animals, 3) Food, 4) Helping Others, 5) Home, 6) Nature, 7) Neighborhood, 8) School, and 9) Travel." Include an interactive vocabulary word list at the end of each book." Include interactive native language support on the introductory pages for: English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Haitian Creole, and Hmong. <p>2) Nine teacher manuals. Each manual contains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">" An introduction with program and language proficiency level information, a usage guide, and components overview." Illustration of student pages, by page, with suggested activities for each page spread at each of the four language proficiency levels, and one multi-proficiency level activity. <p>3) The LeapPad Personal Learning Tool (PLTs): Kits are available with and without LeapPad PLTs. Each LeapPad PLT includes headphones, AC adaptors, and batteries.</p> <p>4) Teacher Resource Kit: Six teaching strategy cards, placement guide, skills matrix, and language posters.</p> <p>5) Optional student backpacks: Allow for home-school connection.</p>
Student Experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none">" Students hear stories read aloud independently, using the PLT. The stories are presented within a meaningful context that expose students to crucial vocabulary supported by pictures." Students can repeatedly access audio components of the books to reinforce comprehension and build fluency." Students participate in individual and group oral and written language learning

activities designed specifically for their language proficiency level.

Assessment	" Placement Guide: Teachers are provided with an English Language Proficiency placement guide. The guide consists of instructions and materials for an observation and elicitation and a placement test. " Skills Matrix: Shows where in the program specific structures, vocabulary, skills, and strategies are developed.
Organization	" Students develop oral and written English language skills as they progress through the thirty-six theme-based interactive books across four proficiency levels. Students are given a gradual introduction to an increasingly complex range of English grammatical structures, vocabulary, and basic comprehension strategies. " The teachers' guides provide over 400 activities designed to enhance concepts and skills introduced in student books. Activities are organized by theme and language proficiency level. " The portable LeapPad learning system and interactive books are designed for extra practice at home.
Resource Materials	Language First offers the following resource materials: " Language Posters: Posters for classroom display contain images, words, and pronunciation guides. " Teaching Strategy Cards: There are six teaching strategy cards: 1) Making Your Teaching Comprehens
Gratis Items to be provided and under what conditions	N/A
Available Ancillary Materials	N/A

Research Data and Evidence of Effectiveness

Disclaimer: the research data and evidence of effectiveness was provided by the publisher and does not reflect the opinion of the State Review Team, the State Textbook Commission, or the Kentucky Department of Education.

Research Available	YES - provide information below The LeapFrog SchoolHouse efficacy studies meet the guidelines proposed by the U.S. Department of Education's What Works Clearinghouse. Many of the studies are federally funded projects, and many are conducted by independent third-party research organizations. Language First! Phoenix Study: In a seven-month experimental study investigating the effectiveness of the Language First! program among 377 Kû2 students in Phoenix, Arizona, students using the Language First! program significantly outperformed their control counterparts on a measure of vocabulary development, a critical component of English language learning. Over the course of this study, more than 60% of students using the Language First! program transitioned into higher levels of English language proficiency, compared to less than half of the control group students. The results of this study demonstrate the effectiveness of the Language First! program in teaching essential English language development skills, preparing limited English proficient students for greater academic and personal success. Please visit the research section of our website, http://www.leapfrogschoolhouse.com/do/listEfficacyStudies , to read the complete overview of these and other LeapFrog SchoolHouse Efficacy Studies.
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Overall Strength and/or Weaknesses

Disclaimer: Comments on the strengths and/or weaknesses of each book, material or program were written by members of the State Textbook/Instructional Materials Review Team and reflect their opinions. They do not reflect the opinions of the State Textbook Commission nor the Kentucky Department of Education. In addition, the State Textbook/Instructional Materials Review Team completed each evaluation form during summer of 2005. In order to maintain the integrity of the review team's comments, editing was limited to spelling and punctuation.

Recommendations: This material was reviewed as part of the entire LEAPFROG SCHOOLHOUSE LANGUAGE FIRST COMPLETE LEARNING CENTER. It is recommended that this material be included on the Kentucky State Textbook Adoption List as a language development program.

Summary Form

I.	Technology Component Summary Motivational interactive format used. Sometimes the book and sensor pen do not work appropriately. It could be frustrating for a student.	0.00
II.	Reading Content Summary The listening component of this program can be used to increase reading fluency. Most of the texts were fiction stories. No instruction given for specific reading strategies since this is a language development program.	1.9299999999999999
III.	Writing Content Summary Contains language development that is needed for struggling writers. Limited writing instruction but has writing prompts.	1.50
IV.	Grammar and Spelling Content Summary Many opportunities for students to think about meaning of words and concepts. No spelling / phonics instruction included.	1.00
V.	Listening /Speaking / Observing Content Summary Many opportunities for students to listen, speak and observe included.	2.00
VI.	Inquiry Content Summary Not found in this program.	
VII.	Technology Content Summary Good use of technology to motivate younger students.	2.00
VIII.	Audience: Teacher Materials Content Summary Limited teacher materials.	1.55
IX.	Audience : Student Materials Content Summary Interactive and motivational. While the program is listed as K-5, older students may find the program too childish and restrictive for them.	1.83
X.	Format Content Summary Directions are easy to follow. Sometimes the pen and program do not interact effectively together.	1.83
XI.	Ancillary Materials Content Summary Materials provided offer basic language development and an opportunity for students to listen to fluent reading. Language development only. Not enough meaningful connections made to reading, writing and spelling.	1.17

READING CONTENT

Seperate Phonics Practice Book (Skill Sheets). Decoding/Phonics built in to Teacher's Edition.
Vocabulary highlighted in student text.
Various levels of questioning, including multiple choice for Test Prep and open ended questions.
Sets of books for Below-Level, On-Level, Advanced and ELL.
Intervention Resource Kit listed as a component but not included for review.

Placement and Diagnostic Assessment. Reading and Language Skills Pre and Post Assessment. End-of-Selection Tests in Practice Book. Oral Reading Fluency Assessment. Teacher's Edition provides information about Professional Development for Reading (including trainer's guide, videos, etc.).

WRITING CONTENT

Oral language development is supported in this program, but there is a very limited writing component found in the Teacher's Edition.

GRAMMAR AND SPELLING

Suggested teacher-led student activities require correct grammar usage in written and oral situations. reproducible student worksheets allow for students to complete fill-in-the-blank activities and writing prompts. This program does not contain a spelling component.

LISTENING / SPEAKING / OBSERVING

INQUIRY

TECHNOLOGY CONTENT

Developmentally appropriate, interactive use of technology.

AUDIENCE: TEACHER MATERIALS

The basic assessment that comes with this program includes teacher observations and interviews. This is a language development program, not a reading program.

AUDIENCE: STUDENT MATERIALS

FORMAT

The leappad system can sometimes be frustrating when the pen does not work properly with the books.

ANCILLARY MATERIALS

Extension activities are included, but modifications and accommodations are not specifically listed.
No clear objectives listed with lessons in teacher editions.
Limited online teacher resources.
Limited teacher resources included.